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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,548	04/26/2001	Koichi Nakamura	JP919990227US1 (590.049)	9240
35195	7590	08/03/2004	EXAMINER	
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES 400 BROAD STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15143			PHILLIPS, HASSAN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2151	

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/843,548

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, KOICHI

Examiner

Hassan Phillips

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed September 15, 2003, has been received and considered by the examiner.

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 3, 6, 8, 10, 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Regarding claim 3, the Examiner feels the wording of claim 3 is unclear. More specifically, in line 5, it is unclear what "the same" is referring to. In order for the

Examiner to advance prosecution of the application for patent, the Examiner has interpreted the claim as understood.

4. Regarding claim 6, the Examiner feels the wording of claim 6 is unclear. More specifically, in line 16, it is unclear what is meant by "in the manner of being discriminated from the other objects by a timer operation". In order for the Examiner to advance prosecution of the application for patent, the Examiner has interpreted the claim as understood.

5. Regarding claim 8, the Examiner feels the wording on page 38, lines 5, and 6, is unclear. More specifically, in line 6, it is unclear what "the same" is referring to. In order for the Examiner to advance prosecution of the application for patent, the Examiner has interpreted the claim as understood.

6. Regarding claim 10, the Examiner feels the wording of claim 10 is unclear. More specifically, in line 8, it is unclear what "the same" is referring to. In order for the Examiner to advance prosecution of the application for patent, the Examiner has interpreted the claim as understood.

7. Regarding claim 15, the Examiner feels the wording on page 41, line 9, is unclear. More specifically, in line 9, it is unclear what "the same" is referring to. In order

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for the Examiner to advance prosecution of the application for patent, the Examiner has interpreted the claim as understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Simonoff, U.S. patent 6,463,460.

3. In considering claim 1, Simonoff teaches a computer system comprising:

- a) A plurality of user systems connected to each other, each user system being adapted to display a work area on a display screen, alternatively a plurality of user systems connected to each other through a computer network, (col. 8, lines 14-40); wherein each of the user systems includes:
- b) A collaboration work controller having a user management table for registering a node identification code given for each of the user systems and an owner identifier related to the node identification code, and an

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object management table for registering object information related to the node identification code, (col. 18, lines 32-36); and,

- c) An obtainer for obtaining, based on an event entry for an object, the node identification code related to the object by referring to the object management table, obtaining the owner identifier related to the obtained node identification code by referring to the user management table, and displaying the object on the screen in a manner that the obtained owner identifier can be discriminated from owner identifiers of other objects, (col. 18, lines 12-31).

4. In considering claim 2, Simonoff further teaches the event entry being a drawing operation carried out by the owner of the object, alternatively a selection operation carried out by a user other than the owner of the object. See col. 15, lines 55-67, col. 16, lines 1-20.

5. In considering claim 4, Simonoff teaches an editor for performing an editing operation including copying, movement deletion and others for the obtained object. See col. 18, lines 12-31.

6. In considering claim 5, Simonoff teaches registering security level information related to the node identification code, and the editing operation being permitted within a range compliant with the security level information. See col. 18, lines 12-31.

7. In considering claim 7, Simonoff further teaches a session controller for controlling a session for each collaboration work, wherein the session controller includes a session management table for registering a session, identification code for identifying the session, a user identification code for identifying a user taking part in the session, and a node identification code of the user system used by the user, and the session control controller refers to the session management table, and transmits the data to the other user systems taking part in the session regarding all sessions registering the user identification code contained in data sent from the user. See col. 24, lines 53-67, and col. 25, lines 1-2.

8. In considering claims 9 and 16, Simonoff teaches a method and storage medium for identifying a collaboration work object, the object having been created based on collaboration work by using a computer system having a plurality of user systems connected to each other, alternatively a plurality of user systems connected to each other through a computer network, comprising the steps of:

- a) Causing one of the user systems to store object data contained in collaboration work data received from the other user systems in an object management table by relating the data to a node identification code of each of the other user systems, and to display an object thereof on a screen of the user system, obtaining, when one of owners taking part in the collaboration work is selected, a node identification code given for a

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user system of the selected owner by referring to a user management table of the user system, obtaining objects related to the obtained node identification code by referring to the object management table, and displaying all the obtained objects on the screen in a manner of discrimination from other objects, (col. 18, lines 12-43).

9. In considering claim 11, Simonoff teaches performing an editing work including copying, movement deletion and others for the obtained object. See col. 18, lines 12-31.

10. In considering claim 12, Simonoff teaches registering security level information related to the node identification code, and the editing operation being permitted within a range compliant with the security level information. See col. 18, lines 12-31.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Suda, U.S. patent 6,639,996.

3. In considering claim 3, although the disclosed system of Simonoff shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show:

- a) An owner identifier superposed on an object.

Nevertheless, Suda teaches an image processing apparatus comprising:

- a) An owner identifier superposed on an object, (col. 3, lines 54-58).

Thus given the teachings of Suda, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show superposing the owner identifier on an object. This would have provided another means for preventing fraudulent usage of the system, and for identifying the owners of objects that are being displayed to the plurality of users on the system, Suda, col. 1, lines 66-67, and col. 2, lines 1-19.

4. In considering claims 8 and 15, Simonoff teaches a method and storage medium for identifying a collaboration work object, the object having been created based on collaboration work by using a computer system having a plurality of user systems connected to each other, alternatively a plurality of user systems connected to each other through a computer network, comprising the steps of:

- a) Causing one of the user systems to store object data contained in collaboration work data received from the other user systems in an object

management table by relating the data to a node identification code of each of the other user systems, and to display an object thereof on a screen of the user system, obtaining the node identification code by referring to the object management table when the object displayed on the screen is selected, and obtaining an owner identifier related to the obtained node identification code by referring to the user management table of the user system, (col. 18, lines 12-43).

Although the disclosed system of Simonoff shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show:

- b) An owner identifier superposed on an object.

Nevertheless, Suda teaches an image processing apparatus comprising:

- b) An owner identifier superposed on an object, (col. 3, lines 54-58).

Thus given the teachings of Suda, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show superposing the owner identifier on an object. This would have provided another means for preventing fraudulent usage of the system, and for identifying the owners of objects that are being displayed to the plurality of users on the system, Suda, col. 1, lines 66-67, and col. 2, lines 1-19.

5. In considering claim 10, although the disclosed system of Simonoff shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show:

- a) An owner identifier superposed on an object.

Nevertheless, Suda teaches an image processing apparatus comprising:

- a) An owner identifier superposed on an object.

Thus given the teachings of Suda, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show superposing the owner identifier on an object. This would have provided another means for preventing fraudulent usage of the system, and for identifying the owners of objects that are being displayed to the plurality of users on the system, Suda, col. 1, lines 66-67, and col. 2, lines 1-19.

6. In considering claim 13, Simonoff further teaches:

- a) Transmitting, when any one of the plurality of user systems starts collaboration work, user information containing a node identification code thereof and an owner identifier to the other user systems, (col. 18, lines 32-43); and,
- b) Causing the other user systems having received the user information to store in each user management table, (col. 17, lines 57-59).

7. Claims 6, 14, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Itakura, U.S. patent 6,639,608.

8. In considering claim 6, although the disclosed system of Simonoff shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show:

- a) Deleting the display of the owner identifier, or obtained object, according to a timer operation.

Nevertheless, Itakura teaches a system for displaying images received from a network comprising:

- a) Deleting an image received over the network according to a timer operation, (col. 10, lines 53-67, col. 11, lines 1-5).

Thus given the teachings of Itakura, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show deleting the display of the owner identifier, or obtained object on the screen according to a timer operation. This would have made a user requesting a particular object effectively aware of who owns the object for a specified period of time, Itakura, col. 2, lines 54-67, and col. 3, lines 1-15.

9. In considering claim 14, although the disclosed system of Simonoff shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly show:

- a) Deleting the display of the owner identifier, or obtained object, according to a timer operation.

Nevertheless, Itakura teaches a system for displaying images received from a network comprising:

- a) Deleting an image received over the network according to a timer operation, (col. 10, lines 53-67, col. 11, lines 1-5).

Thus given the teachings of Itakura, it would have been apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Simonoff to show deleting the display of the owner identifier, or obtained object on the screen according to a timer operation. This would have made a user requesting a particular object effectively aware of who owns the object for a specified period of time, Itakura, col. 2, lines 54-67, and col. 3, lines 1-15.

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Simonoff, U.S. Patent 6,646,460 discloses owner identification of a collaboration work object.

Suda, U.S. Patent 6,639,996 discloses superposing information on images.

Itakura, U.S. Patent 6,639,608 discloses deleting images transmitted over a network according to a timer operation.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hassan Phillips whose telephone number is (703) 305-8760. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (703) 308-6687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HP/
7/19/04


ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER